

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 /087 W

-----097040 291148Z /53

P R 291050Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5226

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1479

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SO, ET, UR, US

SUBJ: SIAD TRIP TO MOSCOW

REF: MOGADISCIO 1475

SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR ADDOU TELLS ME SIAD WAS SUMMONED TO MOSCOW BY BREZHNEV, WHO SENT SPECIAL PLANE TO MOGADISCIO TO FETCH HIM EVEN BEFORE SIAD'S REPLY RECEIVED. WE DOUBT THAT SIAD IS WILLING TO NEGOTIATE WITH SOVIET UNION ON ETHIOPIAN SITUATION. WE THINK IT MORE LIKELY THAT HE INTENDS TO PERSONALLY URGE THAT MOSCOW REDUCE ITS SUPPORT FOR MENGISTU REGIME. WHILE MOSCOW VISIT MAY SIGNAL IMPORTANT STEP IN SOMALI/SOVIET BILATERAL RELATIONS, WE DOUBT THAT IT WILL RESULT IN ANY IMMEDIATE CHANGE IN THOSE RELATIONS OR IN SOMALI/ETHIOPIAN WARFARE. END SUMMARY.

1. IN CONVERSATION AT EMBASSY MONDAY AUGUST 29, AMBASSADOR ADDOU TOLD ME SIAD HAD RECEIVED COMMERCIAL TELEGRAM FROM BREZHNEV AUGUST 27 URGING SIAD TO MEET WITH HIM IN MOSCOW  
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TO DISCUSS BILATERAL PROBLEMS. ADDOU CLAIMED THAT BREZHNEV HAD DISPATCHED AIRCRAFT TO MOGADISCIO TO RETURN SIAD TO MOSCOW EVEN BEFORE HE RECEIVED SIAD'S RESPONSE.

2. ADDOU SAID HE HAD FIRST LEARNED OF SIAD'S PROPOSED TRIP LATE EVENING AUGUST 27. ADDOU WENT TO PRESIDENCY AT 11:00 PM TO VERIFY REPORT AND WAS INFORMED OF SIAD'S

PLANNED DEPARTURE FOR MOSCOW. HE WAS UNAWARE OF SIAD'S INTENTIONS TO GO TO SOVIET UNION WHEN I SPOKE WITH HIM ON AUGUST 26. AT THAT TIME, ADDOU SAID THAT SIAD HAD RESISTED THREE INVITATIONS FROM BREZHNEV TO VISIT SOVIET UNION AND DISCUSS ETHIOPIAN PROBLEMS. ADDOU GAVE ME NO HINT AT THAT TIME THAT MOSCOW TRIP WAS LIKELY. HE NOW TELLS ME SIAD UNDER TREMENDOUS PRESSURE FROM SOVIET UNION TO MEET WITH BREZHNEV.

3. DURING OUR AUGUST 26 TALK, ADDOU CLAIMED THAT SIAD HAD TOLD HIM THAT SOVIET UNION QUOTE WAS BOUND TO LEAVE UNQUOTE SOMALIA. SIAD REPUTEDLY TOLD HIM ON AUGUST 25 THAT SOVIET UNION'S NATIONAL INTERESTS WERE IN BASIC CONFLICT WITH SOMALIA'S NATIONAL INTERESTS AND SOVIET RETREAT FROM SOMALIA INEVITABLE. ADDOU ALSO SAID THAT WHILE SIAD HAD CONFIDED IN HIM THAT HE WOULD ASK SOVIETS TO LEAVE, HE DID NOT INTEND DIPLOMATIC RUPTURE.

4. ABOVE IS VINTAGE ADDOU AND HE HAS BEEN TELLING US SAME THING FOR SOME TIME. ADDOU'S TASK AS MATCHMAKER IS TO KEEP BOTH SIDES PERSUADED OF OTHER'S INTEREST IN MATRIMONY WHILE SIZE OF DOWRY IS BEING NEGOTIATED. I SEE HIS HAND AS MUCH AS SIAD'S IN THE REQUEST HE MADE OF ME AUGUST 26 (MOGADISCIO 1469). WITH US SAYING NO TO IMMEDIATE ARMS HELP TO SIAD, ADDOU MUST NOW OFFER UP SIGNS OF GOOD INTENT TO KEEP DIALOGUE GOING.

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5. WE HAVE NO RPT NO HINT THAT SIAD NOW PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE WITH SOVIET UNION ON ETHIOPIAN PROBLEM. WHETHER HE WILL BE AS INFLEXIBLE IN HIS TALKS IN MOSCOW AS HE HAS BEEN IN HIS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COMMENTS IS DIFFICULT TO SAY. BUT HE HAS LEFT HIMSELF LITTLE ROOM TO NEGOTIATE, SINCE HE HAS STEADFASTLY INSISTED THAT MENGISTU HAS BUT TWO CHOICES -- EITHER TO AGREE TO A POLITICAL SOLUTION WHICH WOULD GIVE SELF-DETERMINATION TO COLONIZED LOWLAND PEOPLES OF ETHIOPIA OR SUBMIT TO ARMED STRUGGLE WHICH WOULD WIN AUTONOMY BY FORCE OF ARMS. IT IS HARD TO SEE HOW HE COULD NOW RETREAT PUBLICLY FROM THIS POSITION.

6. WHETHER FAILURE TO CAPTURE DIRE DAWA HAS MADE SIAD MORE CAUTIOUS AND THUS AMENABLE TO NEGOTIATION SEEMS DUBIOUS ASSUMPTION TO US (FYI: ADDOU TOLD ME THAT BAD WEATHER IN AREA HAS DELAYED OFFENSIVE END FYI.) WSLF POSITION STILL SEEMS STRONG TO US. WITH COMMITMENT OF ADDITIONAL SNA FORCES, ITS POSITION WOULD BE EVEN STRONGER.

7. WITH SOMALI MILITARY GOALS NOT YET REACHED, WE THINK IT MORE LIKELY THAT SIAD INTENDS TO PUT HIS CHIPS ON TABLE IN MOSCOW, WITH HOPE THAT SOVIET UNION MAY YIELD IN ITS

COMMITTMENT TO MENGISTU REGIME. EVEN IF USSR PREPARED TO CONCEDE IN SOME WAY IN ITS COMMITTMENT TO ETHIOPIA, -- FOR EXAMPLE, SIZE OF DUBAN FORCES -- IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW SIAD COULD TURN THIS TO HIS OWN ADVANTAGE WITHOUT UNDERMINING SOVIET POSITION IN ETHIOPIA.

8. WE TEND TO SEE SIAD'S MOSCOW TRIP AS YET ANOTHER STAGE IN HIS ROUND OF BARGAINING. HE WILL INFORM HIMSELF DIRECTLY OF WHAT SOVIET INTENTIONS NOW ARE, EVEN AS HE TELLS THEM OF HIS OWN DETERMINATION. IN OUR VIEW HE STILL MANEUVERING AND BETS ARE NOT YET ALL IT.  
LOUGHRAN

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## Message Attributes

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